

PATENT
Atty. Dkt. No.: ROC920010296US1
MPS Ref. No.: IBMK10296

REMARKS

This is intended as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated September 27, 2004, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on December 27, 2004. Please reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below.

Claims 1-20 are pending in the application. Claims 2-10 and 12-20 remain pending following entry of this response. Claims 2, 6, 12 and 18 have been amended. Claims 1 and 11 have been cancelled. Applicant submits that the amendments do not introduce new matter.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

Claims 1 and 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 (e) as being anticipated by *Ide et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,388,672). Claims 1 and 11 are also rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by *Heeb.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,430,679). Applicant has canceled claims 1 and 11 in view of the allowable subject matter. In doing so, Applicant makes no admissions with respect to the patentability of these claims and the teaching of the references and reserves the right to further prosecute these claims in a continuation application.

Claim Objections

Claims 2-9 and 12-20 stand objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Claims 2, 6, 12 and 18 have been rewritten in independent form which includes all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant submits that claims 2-9 and 12-20 are in condition for allowance and respectfully requests allowance of the claims.

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Conclusion

The secondary references made of record are noted. However, it is believed that the secondary references are no more pertinent to the Applicant's disclosure than the primary references cited in the office action. Therefore, Applicant believes that a detailed discussion of the secondary references is not necessary for a full and complete response to this office action.

Having addressed all issues set out in the office action, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully requests that the claims be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,



Gero G. McClellan
Registration No. 44,227
MOSER, PATTERSON & SHERIDAN, L.L.P.
3040 Post Oak Blvd. Suite 1500
Houston, TX 77056
Telephone: (713) 623-4844
Facsimile: (713) 623-4846
Attorney for Applicant